

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUGUST 21, 2023 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

Matthew Welch, President – absent
Neil McCauley, Vice President - absent
Robert Myers, Member – present
Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present

Thomas Brungard, Member –present
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present
Alen Harris, Member – present

Also, in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Michael Gombar, Solicitor
Sam Reeser, Engineer
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Presiding Officer: **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to appoint Councilman Elgonitis as the presiding officer for this evening’s meeting due to the absence of President Welch and Vice President McCauley. Motion carried 5-0

Call to Order: Councilman Elgonitis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Councilman Harris

Visitor(s): Susie and Russell Lander, Christen Thompson, Dave Blank, Ryan Acevedo, Erin Morta, Richard Fiset

Agenda Amendments: There were no agenda amendments

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Presentation – Mayor Certificate – Anti-Vandalism Poster Contest Winner

Mayor Scioli presented a Mayor’s Certificate to Kaleb Brown, winner of the Anti-Vandalism Poster Contest.

Audit Presentation – 2022 Borough Audit – Herbein & Co

Nick Bieber, of Herbein and Company, provided a presentation of the 2022 Borough Audit.

Minutes– July 17, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the July 17, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 5-0. Amendments being under Old Business, first bullet, add ‘Parks’ in front of Lease Agreement, under Public Comment, second bullet, remove the last two sentences.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Bills List dated August 21, 2023 (56,790.68) and Checks for Ratification dated July 18, 2023– August 20, 2023 (160,127.65). Motion carried 5-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Treasurer's Report dated August 21, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurers' Report

General (Surplus/(Deficit)	680,690.84
Harms (Surplus/(Deficit)	245,151.29
Liquid Fuels (Surplus/(Deficit)	109,712.62

Manager's Report

- **Rustic Park Cameras** - There was discussion regarding the quote from Nextgen Security for park cameras. JJ Krystopa of Nextgen Security was present to answer questions. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Myers to table decision of the park cameras. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Brungard voting no. The matter will be discussed further at the next Council meeting.
- **Health Ordinance/Health Board** – **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the revised Health Ordinance as presented. Motion carried 5-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to appoint Richard Fiset to the Health Board. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Recycling Bid** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the recycling bid documents and authorize advertising of requests for proposal for recycling services. Motion carried 5-0.
- **EMS Run Card Authorization** – Authorization of changes to run cards was table until Councilman Elgonitis has an opportunity to discuss with representatives of TowerDirect.
- **BUFD Letter of Support** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to adopt the BUFD statement/letter of support as follows.
 - *"On the recommendation of the Borough Solicitor, Borough Council will not comment on the ongoing matter involving BUFD's former Treasurer, Kenneth Long. With that being said, BUFD has been transparent with the Borough throughout the process. Additionally, BUFD has sufficiently displayed its commitment to implementing a set of best practices to improve its internal oversight, policies and controls. As a result, Borough Council is confident in the current state of the BUFD and maintains its support for BUFD, its officers and volunteers to continue to provide exceptional fire protection and related services to the residents of the Borough of Birdsboro."*

Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer's Report

- Engineer Reeser reviewed the Engineer's Report, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the requested waivers for the Tucci Subdivision in accordance with the Tarson, LLC letter dated June 27, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve conditional approval of the Tucci Subdivision contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of the comments in the Engineer's letter dated August 10, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Solicitor's Report – No new report

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- Chief Trupp noted that Solicitor Gombar is working on a draft parking ordinance. Also, Council will need to make a decision if additional stop signs are needed at the E. 2nd Street and S. Walnut Street intersection. Matter to be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.
- Chief Trupp noted that the bus patrol training has been completed. Also, as a result of the theft of the police vehicle it is recommended that the porthole in the vehicles be made smaller, a recommendation is to be obtained from the police car outfitter.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to designate Tuesday, October 31, 2023, as Trick or Treat night.

Municipal Services / Department Reports

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Report included in the Council packet
- **Water Treatment Plant:** Report included in the Council packet
- **Streets Department:** Report included in the Council packet

Recreation Board

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve Christmas in Birdsboro date of December 9, 2023, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the Christmas lighting agreement with Halter Landscaping for a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the purchase of an additional octopus for Main Bird Park for a cost of \$1,500. Motion carried 5-0.
- Ryan Acevedo noted concerns of Borough ball players losing the ability to play at the Union Township ballfield and noted concern of the inability to utilize the Borough ballfield, in particular the American Legion Post 626 ballfield. Mayor Scioli suggested he and Ryan meet to discuss.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Myers noted that an article in the Reading Eagle stated that local government is spending billions in rescue plan monies for revenue replacement.

Old Business

- **Parks Lease Agreement Discussion** –Discussions continue
- **Security Cameras for Recreation Areas** – Discussed earlier
- **Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee Renegotiations** – No discussion

Public Comment

- David Blank, 127 Hopewell Street, asked if safeguards have been put in place so that the fire company matter does not happen again and it was noted that the fire company is addressing it.
- Ryan Acevedo, 647 Jefferson Street, asked if the letter has gone out to A.J. Blosenski and he noted A.J. Blosenski is not picking up the totes from property owners now using another hauler. It was noted that a letter did go out to A.J. Blosenski but there has been no response from them.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary